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STATE OF KANSAS

Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Testimony on SB 43

Bryan A. Caskey, Director of Elections
Kansas Secretary of State's office

January 24, 2017

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 43. This bill changes the deadline to conduct the intermediate and final canvass for special elections to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Representative.

Earlier this legislative session, the Kansas Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law HB 2017 regarding special elections to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Representative. This law states the intermediate canvass shall be held three days following the election, and the final canvass shall be held six days following the election. This bill would change those deadlines to match the canvass dates following a regular election. The intermediate canvass would be held on the Monday or second Thursday following the election, while the final canvass would be held three days following the completion of the intermediate canvass. The purpose of this change is to allow local jurisdictions to call special elections at the same time as the special election. Without this change, local election offices would be required to have duplicate election systems in place to certify official election results on different days even though the elections were held on the same day. The Secretary of State's office supports this change to allow local jurisdictions to conduct special elections on the same day and in the same manner as special elections to fill vacancies in United States Representative.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, and I stand for any questions.